

City of Rockville Environment Commission

Watersheds Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday July 17, 2012

Blue Crab, Rockville City Hall

7:15 pm

Meeting Attendance: Julie Palakovich Carr, Joe Arrowsmith, Ann Goodman, Shannon Philbin

1. Environment Commission Report

- Julie Palakovich reported that the Environment Commission:
 - Voted on candidates for the Commission Vacancy and reached a unanimous decision.
 - The search has begun for a new Commission Chair. Chris Dighe has stepped down and is acting chair.
 - Heather Gewandter reported that EMD will be making edits to the Stormwater Ordinance.
 - Julie Palakovich Carr presented the stream cleanup action plan and shared plans to post portions of it on the EMD website and share with the multi city environment commission.
 - Discussed draft action plan to help City reach goal of recycling 60% of refuse stream.

2. Environmental Management Division Report

- Shannon Philbin reported:
 - The new City Manager, Barbara Burns Matthews, will be starting in October and was previously the City Manager for Takoma Park.
 - The TapIT program received some publicity in local newspapers including the Gazette.
 - Outreach will be conducted in the coming months for the green building tax credit recently approved by the Mayor and Council.
 - Green Power Community Challenge is still going through August of this year.
 - The Universities at Shady Grove is holding
 - The 2012 RainScapes Budget ended the fiscal year with a little over \$100 left. The program was approved for \$10,000 for fiscal year 2013.

3. Recap of Montgomery County RainScapes Tour

- No one from the Watershed Committee attended the tour, but Ann Goodman heard that no one came to the Rockville High School Conservation Garden site. The event was only advertised a few weeks before. If the County holds another tour next year, more could be done next year to promote it ahead of time.
- Ann Goodman noted that the registration process for certain City events on Rock Enroll is very cumbersome and likely deters attendance at events.
- Goodman also mentioned that Rockville Reports published an article on the national wildlife habitat that did not mention the efforts residents who are actively involved in making Rockville a Community Certified Wildlife habitat.

4. Discussion of Rock Creek Assessment Report

- Shannon reported that the Rock Creek Assessment Report will be available for comment to the Environment Commission and Committees at the end of July or early August, likely through e-mail. It will be presented at the September Mayor and Council meeting.
- Ann Goodman and Julie Palakovich Carr mentioned that the Watershed Committee's role in the reviewing previous watershed assessments was primarily for clarity, readability, and organization.
- Joe Arrowsmith mentioned that he can potentially comment on the technical aspects of the report and is interested in the watershed committee commenting on problem areas in the watershed and setting priorities for potential projects.

5. Discussion of Luna Leopold Research Project

- Shannon reported that EMD staff would do the preliminary research on Luna Leopold's presence in the Watts Branch watershed. The Watershed Committee would then be included in decision making about wording, design and placement of signage and/or a brochure. Members agreed that this plan would work better than the Committee taking on the whole project itself.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58pm.

The next Watersheds Committee meeting is scheduled for
Tuesday, August 21, 2012 at 7:15 pm
in the Blue Crab conference room at Rockville City Hall
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, 20850.